



Lunar Crater Observation & Sensing Satellite (LCROSS)



Developed by NASA Ames Research Center and Northrop Grumman, LCROSS is a co-manifested space-craft with the LRO (Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter). The LCROSS mission objective is to look for water ice at one of the lunar poles.

LCROSS will be launched into a trans-lunar trajectory with the LRO satellite on an Atlas-Centaur rocket. The rocket will be launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida in 2009.

Observing the impact of the rocket upper stage will help determine if there is water hidden in the permanently shadowed craters of one of the Moon's poles. If there are substantial amounts of ice there, it could be processed by astronauts to produce potable water, oxygen, and possibly even rocket fuel at future lunar bases.

